

PLANS TO EXPOSE MUNITIONS TRUST

Congressman Tavenner Announces Program He is to Push at Opening of Congress.

LEADERS ARE TO BE CALLED

Men Behind the Navy League to Be Asked to Tell Their Holdings in Big Concerns.

Washington, Nov. 21.—Congressman Clyde H. Tavenner of the Fourteenth Illinois district, the originator of the policy of government manufacture of munitions of war, yesterday gave out his program to be inaugurated immediately upon the convening of congress with an object to the attainment of the end toward which he has been for years striving. Mr. Tavenner's statement follows:

"As soon as congress convenes I shall introduce bills providing for government manufacture of munitions, armor, battleships, submarines, torpedoes, airplanes and war paraphernalia of every character. If we are to appropriate large sums of money for the army and navy I want to be assured that we will get a dollar's worth of preparedness for every dollar of the taxpayers' money appropriated, and government manufacture is the only policy that will give us this assurance. I shall also introduce a resolution providing for an investigation as to what has become of the money we have already appropriated for preparedness.

"As the Navy league is unfriendly to government manufacture of war paraphernalia, while at the same time insisting that it is wholly dissociated from war trafficking influences, I shall introduce a resolution to investigate the Navy league, specifically requiring J. P. Morgan and certain other directors of the Navy league, past and present, to take the responsibility of testifying, under oath, whether they own, or have ever owned, stock in war-trafficking concerns or firms which have drawn down the fat contracts from previous army or navy appropriations. I do not desire to infer, however, that all of the directors of the Navy league are stockholders in war-trafficking firms. There are, for instance, such men as General John Temple Graves, John Callan O'Laughlin, and others on the board of directors of the Navy league, whose disinterested patriotism is beyond question, and it is certainly not my idea to have such men required to testify. The men connected with the Navy league whom I desire to testify, under oath, as to whether they now own or have ever owned stock in war-trafficking concerns, are not the gentlemen in the front, but at the back, of the Navy league, the men who organized and reorganized the Navy league, whether they are directors or not.

"Where Has Money Gone? Two hundred and forty million dollars, raised by taxing the American people, have annually been expended on the army and navy under the general assumption that in return for this colossal expenditure the nation was being reasonably prepared. But it is now asserted, even by men occupying high and authoritative place in public life and in a position to know what they are talking about, that our country is 'pitifully and hopelessly unprepared' and that if war were to break out today, it would be found that our coast defenses have not sufficient ammunition for an hour's fight. Surely, to any thinking person, this state of affairs must suggest an indictment of the policy of giving the bulk of army and navy contracts to private munition and shipbuilding concerns. If we are not prepared as we should be, it is not because the people have not paid in taxes the price of adequate preparation, but because too much of the money appropriated for preparedness has gone into the pockets of the stockholders of the war trafficking firms, some of which stockholders are men occupying high positions in official life.

"At least a hint as to what has be-

come of the staggering sums appropriated for preparedness is to be found in the fact that four firms which have enjoyed practically a monopoly of the large army and navy contracts have received since 1887 orders aggregating \$175,000,000 and have been paid for their wares from twenty to sixty per cent more than the same could have been manufactured for in government arsenals and navy yards.

"It is possible to give definite and specific information as to the economy of government manufacture. Take armor plate as an illustration. There have been 10 official estimates as to the actual cost of a ton of armor plate. The average estimate is \$238.64 a ton, yet since 1887 we have purchased 217,379 tons of armor, paying the armor an average of \$440.04 a ton, or a total of \$95,856,240. If all this armor had been manufactured in government plants it is entirely conservative to say that at least \$35,000,000 would have been saved to the American taxpayers. The war department, in 1913, purchased 7,600 4.7 inch shrapnel from the ammunition ring, paying \$25.26 each therefor. At the same time precisely the same article was being manufactured in a government plant at a cost of \$15.45. The war department paid the ring \$17.50 for a 3.8 inch common shrapnel when it can manufacture the identical article for \$7.94. The government has manufactured at the Rock Island arsenal caissons for gun carriages at a cost of \$1,128.67, for which private manufacturers had been paid \$1,744.10, which is 54.6 per cent greater than the actual cost. Take powder: The government has purchased \$25,000,000 worth of powder from the powder trust since 1905, paying therefor all the way from 53 cents to 80 cents per pound. We are manufacturing powder in government plants for 34 cents per pound and the officers in charge state that the more we manufacture the cheaper we can produce it. A hundred similar illustrations could be cited if space permitted. These given are not exceptions, but the general rule, as may be shown by the fact that on a contract covering a wide variety of war materials valued at \$1,900,000, the government saved, by doing the work itself, \$979,840; or in other words, the government saved approximately one million dollars on a two million dollar contract, as compared with what it would cost had that order been given the private contractors.

"Higher Pay for Workers. Government manufacture will mean that the workmen who perform the labor of actually making the munitions will receive higher wages and better working conditions than if the contracts for war materials are awarded to the private munition firms, among which are numbered the most bitter enemies of organized labor in the United States.

"Practically all of the peace societies of the world, which do not have on their boards of directors or in their memberships stockholders in the private war trading firms, have declared in favor of the nationalization of the manufacture of munitions of war on the theory that if private profit and private graft are taken out of militarism the incentive for at least that portion of the systematic agitation for increased military appropriations inaugurated by those who directly or indirectly profit from the sale of war materials will have been removed, and an important step taken in the direction of peace. Government manufacture of war materials was also endorsed by the American Federation of Labor at its convention last year in Philadelphia.

"Nationalization of the manufacture of war paraphernalia offers a program on which all save those directly or indirectly interested in private war trafficking concerns may unite. Whether in favor of disarmament, vastly increased armament, or maintaining the present armament, all can meet on a common ground. Those who desire a greater armament can obtain it through government manufacture without paying increased burdens upon the taxpayers.

"By manufacturing armor, munitions, submarines, aeroplanes, etc., in its own plants the government will be able to keep for its own use any improvements in such vehicles of war.

If You Are Going to Buy a New Coat



Please Look at the 300 New Coats in This Sale

AT

\$12⁹⁸ \$16⁵⁰ \$19⁷⁵

and \$24⁷⁵

There are twenty-two different styles, the cream of the best winter fashions, superb materials, rich linings, many (nearly all) have fur collars and trimmings of fur.

Coats for dress and street wear and big motor coats of distinctive style. We say the prices are much below earlier prices. This is most conservative. As a matter of fact, there is not a coat in the entire three hundred that could be offered under usual circumstances at anywhere near these prices.

Please note the kind of coats they are—and the fine manner in which they are made. Then the prices will be more than ever astonishing. There are just four groups—\$12.98, \$16.50, \$19.75 and \$24.75. Women's sizes up to 48, and Misses' sizes from 16 up.

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Waists, newest
models, plain or
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It is often advisable to take a safe and reliable tonic—one that will help Nature bring back the appetite, assist the digestion, keep the liver and bowels active, make rich red blood—

In Other Words, help you back to your former health and strength.

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HOSTETTER'S Stomach Bitters

At Mercy of Monopoly.

"Under the present system the government is at the mercy of a few concerns having a monopoly of the manufacture of the materials of war, who appear to have a gentlemen's agreement to divide the government contracts between themselves and between whom there is no competition worthy of the name. I do not see how it is impossible for congress to justify to the people a refusal to erect a government plant. Let Secretary Daniels to congress, nor how it can answer the charge that will invariably be brought up—that the same mysterious providence which saved this profitable business to the steel companies three times in the past, even after money for a government plant had actually been appropriated, is not still at work exercising its beneficent protection over these lusty specimens of infant industries, who are even now under government investigation as violators of the anti-trust law."

"It is argued by some who oppose government manufacture as a policy that the government should give to private manufacturers contracts in time of peace in order that they may be relied upon for patriotic cooperation in time of war. When war with Spain was imminent, however, the armor manufacturers showed their patriotism by practically issuing an ultimatum that they would not manufacture a single piece of armor unless the government should agree to pay them \$100 a ton more than the price fixed by congress after an investigation as a fair price. Their patriotism, however, did not prevent them from selling armor to Russia for \$240 a ton, while they were asking their own government \$145 a ton. The present European war has demonstrated that private plants not in the business of manufacturing war materials can make the necessary alterations to manufacture such supplies in a reasonably

short space of time. By enlarging the government plants and operating them in time of peace the government could have on hand sufficient ammunition, guns, etc., to equip the most powerful army ever organized and keep it in the field a long time after private plants not engaged in the manufacture of war materials would have been able to reorganize their shops and be turning out ammunition and other supplies. In the event that private manufacturers should not respond to the necessity of the occasion the government could itself take over such industrial plants as it might need just as England has done.

Small Group Profits.

"War and preparation for war is profitable to only a very small group of our citizens, but a very powerful and resourceful group. War and preparation for war is in fact so stupendously profitable to the Wall street financiers back of the war trading firms as to be a menace to all the rest of mankind. Let us take Bethlehem Steel as an illustration: At the outbreak of the European war this concern's stock sold at \$30 a share; today it is \$450. The profit on a \$50 investment was \$420. By this we may obtain an inkling of the profit to the war trust magnates who owned millions and millions of dollars worth of the stocks of the war trafficking firms. It is not to the interest of these men that the European war shall be brought to a speedy close. It is not to their interest that the United States of America shall not become involved in the European war, but that it shall become involved. The more war, the more profits. To the war trust backers peace is actually a calamity.

"War is unprofitable to all save the war trading mongers. Why not make war unprofitable even to them by taking all profit out of war and preparation for war? Congress can do it easily by manufacturing all of its own munitions and ships.

"It is to the interest of only the few to leave profit in war and preparation for war, while it is to the interest of the entire earth's population to take it out."

CAPT. ISAAC LUSK IS CALLED AT ST. LOUIS

Captain Isaac P. Lusk, for years manager of the Diamond Joe steamboat lines until the property was sold to the Streckfus company, was buried today at St. Louis while flags on the river front in that city were at half mast. Captain Lusk died Saturday night. He was born in Albany, Ill., Nov. 5, 1856. He is survived by his wife, one

daughter, Mrs. M. Meyer; three brothers, H. C. Lusk of Davenport and Roy and Frank of New York City; and two sisters, Mrs. Josephine Frederick of St. Louis and Mrs. N. W. Washburn of New York City.

VAN SANT'S PUPILS HEARD AT BENEFIT

In a benefit concert given recently for the Polish relief fund at La Salle, Miss Margaret White and George McQueen of Streator, pupils of Laporte Van Sant, well known teacher and composer who has a class of voice students in Rock Island at the Safety building studio, were heard to great advantage. Both the young artists proved to be well advanced in their

work and the audience found their singing of great value and they received repeated encores. The Polish society conducts these concerts annually and last year another of Mr. Van Sant's pupils, Mrs. Bergin, of Moline, who has a beautiful contralto voice of great range, easily captured the honors of the program, receiving much favorable press comment and this notwithstanding there were several Chicago artists on the program. Mr. Van Sant has interesting classes in La Salle, Streator, Chicago, Burlington and in this city. He arrived from Chicago today to conduct his work here, a pleasing feature of which is the assembly class in choral which meets this evening at 7:30 in the Auditorium Art rooms.

All the news all the time—The Argus.

Peeling the Skin is Better Than Bleaching

Ever since the discovery that mercurized wax would absorb and remove a discolored complexion, its use by ladies as a substitute for bleaching creams has grown rapidly. A perfect complexion can be maintained indefinitely if this remarkable substance is used. Its beneficent cleansing, clearing and preservative action is quickly apparent, and ladies who have been paying high prices for "special bleach" from beauty specialists, soon recognize that mercurized wax outranks them all. It has become so popular that it can be obtained at all druggists, who have it in original one-ounce packages. The favorite way of using it is to apply it, like cold cream, before retiring, washing it off in the morning. The exfoliate lotion for wrinkles and the facial contour has also become extremely popular. One ounce powdered exfoliate is dissolved in one-half pint witch hazel. Rubbing the face in this has a splendid effect in erasing wrinkles and improving contour.

When You Feel Out of Sorts

it means that something is wrong with your physical condition. Those dull eyes, that tired feeling, headache, disturbed sleep, disordered stomach, sallow skin and bad taste in the mouth, are signs that your digestive organs are not in good order. Get the stomach and liver acting properly, and these disagreeable symptoms will disappear. It is a simple matter to keep these important organs in healthy condition by taking

BEECHAM'S PILLS

for this remarkable remedy possesses medicinal virtues which stimulate a sluggish liver, regulate the bile, and give the stomach new strength to digest and assimilate its food. They also carry off the impurities from the system, improve the blood, and bring back the hue of health to the cheeks.

Beecham's Pills are not a "cure-all," but a splendid conditioner whenever you are out of sorts and know you need something for your liver, digestion, bowels or blood. When you feel that way, you can always count on Beecham's Pills to set you right. They quickly build up a run-down system and

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